12th October 1928]

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" With your permission, Mr. President, I should like to bring to your notice one point which I think is a matter of importance to non-official members. During the time of questions and answers, the hon. the Minister for Education replying to a question asked by an hon. Member of this House said 'if the hon. Member would apply his mind to it, the reasons would be obvious', or something to that effect. It is due to the hon. Members of this House when they ask questions that the Government should give reasons as far as possible. We can consider it quite reasonable if the Government ask for notice, but when obviously they can give the answer or information, it is due to this House that they should give the answer. In these circumstances I would request you, Sir, to protect the interests of the House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Will the hon. Member state the question and answer he refers to ?"

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" In reply to one of the questions the hon. the Education Minister asked the questioning member to apply his mind and stated that the reasons would be obvious. I think it is due to this House that hon. Members of the Treasury Bench should show greater courtesy and give reasons wherever they can, if asked."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" If I could remember aright, the question was as to why a depressed class man had not been nominated to a temple committee under the Hindu Religious Endowments Act; and I thought naturally, as all hon. Members are aware of the social customs in these matters, that it would not serve the interests of the public if I were to mention publicly the reasons. When hon. Members asked the question, I thought it was in the interests of the public themselves not to say it publicly."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I do not think the hon. the Minister intended anything against the capacity of hon. Members to understand things."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, Sir."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II

VOTING BY LOBBIES.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I make a request, Sir? Last year about the time of the budget discussion as soon as the arrangements for the lobby system were completed, you enquired of the Members of this House whether the division might hereafter be taken under the lobby system. I remember that, so far as the budget discussion then was concerned, you decided that you might defer taking votes by means of the lobby arrangement and that later on we could consider the proposal. Now, Sir, I beg to submit that hereafter, that is from the next meeting, votes may be taken by dividing the House into lobbies."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think the Leader of the House will consider the matter and state his views. I should like to hear after lunch interval from the leaders of parties as to their wishes regarding the question of going into lobbies."